ben Sid, *hazan* or Reader in a Toledo Synagogue. These two, in collaboration with other Jewish savants, were the authors of the famous "Alfonsine Tables/' which they themselves translated into Spanish and which continued in great repute for centuries. They are found in innumerable manuscripts and were published time after time long after the invention of printing (the last edition which appeared for practical use was that of Madrid of 1641). As late as the seventeenth century, they were still being consulted by Kepler and even Galileo.

The Alfonsine Tables in their turn were adapted for his contemporaries in 1310 by Isaac Israeli of Toledo, and in his recension became classical throughout Europe, being utilised by Scaliger, the sixteenth-century founder of the modern science of chronology, and by Petavius.

Further astronomical tables formerly in general use were compiled by Joseph ibn Wakkar at Toledo in 1396, and in Aragon by various Jewish savants for Pedro III (IV). Other calculations were made by Emanuel ben Jacob, known to the outside world as Bonfils de Tarascon. These were shortly afterwards translated into Latin from the original Hebrew, and were extensively used by many European scholars of the age of the Renaissance —pre-eminently by Pico della Mirandola and Peiresc.[1]

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One of the principal centres of activity in the period

of preparation which led up to the great maritime discoveries of the late Middle Ages was Majorca. The

*It is interesting to note that even the points of the compass, as they were known to mariners of old, owed their nomenclature to Jews. It is in the *Sepher Asaph* of the ninth (?) century that we first find these mentioned by the names current in the Middle Ages—Graecum, Scirrocum, Qarbinum, Magistrum. These terms were taken over by the Latin world, and were crystallised by mention in the *Treasure* composed by Brunetto Latini between 1260 and 1269.